

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06402 271713Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 STRE-00 SSO-00 H-02 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00
SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /099 W
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USMTN, USEEC
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STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, EEC, ETRD
SUBJECT: EC PRESS STATEMENT ON LIST OF POSSIBLE WITHDRAWALS
OF ITS INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS OFFER

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EC COMMISSION DELEGATION STATEMENT
RELEASED TODAY ON LIST OF POSSIBLE WITHDRAWALS.

QUOTE: THE COMMUNITY HAS FORMALLY INVITED ITS MAIN GATT
PARTNERS TO IMPROVE WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE THEIR
UNSATISFACTORY TARIFF REDUCTION OFFERS.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE ADEQUATE RECIPROCITY OF CONCESSIONS
AND TO RESPECT THE TIMETABLE THAT THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE
FIXED FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE COMMUNITY HAS PREPARED A
LIST OF POSSIBLE WITHDRAWALS FROM ITS ORIGINAL TARIFF
OFFER. IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS PROVIDED FOR THE
INTEGRAL APPLICATION OF THE "SWISS" TARIFF REDUCTION
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FORMULA, WITH THE RESERVE THAT THIS WOULD BE MATCHED BY
ADEQUATE RECIPROCITY FROM THE OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATION. AT THE PRESENT STAGE
OF NEGOTIATIONS THIS RECIPROCITY IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY
ASSURED.

SINCE LAST JANUARY, THE COMMUNITY HAS UNDERTAKEN A

DETAILED STUDY OF ITS PARTNERS TARIFF OFFERS. THESE INCLUDE BOTH PARTIAL AND TOTAL EXEMPTIONS FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE TARIFF REDUCTION FORMULA, COVERING A LARGE VOLUME OF TRADE. THESE EXCEPTIONS ARE CONCENTRATED ON THOSE PRODUCTS ON WHICH CUSTOMS DUTIES ARE RELATIVELY HIGH. THIS RUNS COUNTER TO THE PRINCIPLE OF TARIFF HARMONIZATION WHICH THE COMMUNITY CONSIDERS TO BE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE. FURTHERMORE, THESE EXCEPTIONS SOMETIMES CONCERN PRODUCTS ON WHICH CUSTOMS DUTIES ARE NOT GATT-BOUND AND CAN CONSEQUENTLY BE RAISED AT ANY MOMENT WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND EQUIVALENT COMPENSATION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, REDUCTIONS WHICH GO BEYOND THE APPLICATION OF THE FORMULA ARE OFFERED IN COMPENSATION ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS WHERE CUSTOMS DUTIES ARE LOW AND THE VOLUME OF TRADE ALREADY HIGH. THIS APPROACH GIVES A HIGH AVERAGE DEPTH OF TARIFF REDUCTION, BUT IT IS COUNTER TO THE DESIRED HARMONIZATION OF TARIFF DISPARITIES. IN ADDITION, SUCH A FORM OF COMPENSATION IS OFTEN CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF THE TARIFF REDUCTION FORMULA THAT HAS BEEN AGREED.

ON APRIL 27 THE COMMUNITY TRANSMITTED ITS LIST OF POSSIBLE WITHDRAWALS TO THE GATT SECRETARIAT FOR CIRCULATION TO ALL PARTNERS IN THE NEGOTIATION.

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UNLIKE CERTAIN OF ITS PARTNERS, WHOSE TOTAL EXCEPTIONS COVER A SIGNIFICANT VOLUME OF TRADE, THE COMMUNITY'S LIST OF POSSIBLE WITHDRAWALS INCLUDES ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF PRODUCTS WHICH WOULD BE TOTALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE FORMULA. THE MAJORITY OF THE PRODUCTS IN THE LIST WOULD BE SUBJECT TO LESS THAN FORMULA CUTS. UNQUOTE. CULBERT

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